

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

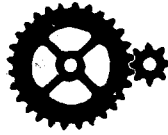
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THE OHIO STATE ENGINEER

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WHY ENGINEERS' DAY?

"Why?", queries a freshman, should any engineering student volunteer hours of his valuable time in preparation for Engineers' Day?" This question is older than the traditional day itself. It is a natural question, one that cannot be ignored.

Engineers' Day should be an event that is anticipated with pleasure and remembered as a high light of college days. It is as traditional as the rugged individualism of Lord Hall, as traditional as the jokes found, year after year, in *THE ENGINEER*. Yet, it is not all tradition. The principles underlying Engineers' Day are, in part, much the same as those of any exposition, world's fair, or convention. It provides an opportunity whereby routine work and special projects of the various departments may be exhibited. Visitors are fascinated by the ingenious displays. Hundreds of prospective college students are permitted to see a cross section of college work and play. Perhaps it is a little more glamorous than a true cross section but by this means, the university, which heretofore has been only a name, becomes something alive and attractive.

Parents are always glad of a chance to see the embryonic engineer and to inspect his laboratories. This is one day when "old grads" are certain of a welcome, an opportunity to make new acquaintances and renew the old.

The parade, in which almost every engineer participates directly or indirectly, is an entertaining feature of Engineers' Day. Some of the floats are symbolic of the high standards of the organizations they represent, but most of the floats are of a lighter nature. The prizes awarded by the Engineers' Council for the best floats are well worth working for.

The "heavy" drama presented by the Quadrangle Jesters is entirely out of keeping with the serious fellows seen on their way across the Quadrangle to a mechanics midterm. Perhaps that's what makes their show such a success.

As the culmination of the two day program, comes

the Engineers' Dance. This is more than just a campus affair; it is a dance for alumni and visitors, for engineers and their friends.

Engineers' Day brings prestige to the University throughout the state, to the College of Engineering throughout the university. It gives the student a better perspective of his and other departments. Above all, it makes for cooperation and congeniality in the College of Engineering.

K.O.F.

PROGRESS THROUGH CRITICISM

It should be obvious to every professor and instructor in the College of Engineering that the foundation for a better system of engineering education depends at least in part on knowledge of student reactions and opinions regarding courses. No course offered in the College is above constructive criticism from the students who have taken it. Such criticism represents the students' viewpoint, which the instructor with all his years of teaching experience can never acquire, simply because he is on the other side of the fence.

As a group the engineering students are serious-minded to the extent that they want to get the most out of the courses they take, especially the courses having a direct bearing on future work. Not infrequently it happens that factors beyond their control prevent them from getting the most out of the course. The textbook, the instructor himself, the general manner of presentation, or any combination of these might be at fault. One who has given instruction in a subject over a period of years and has the subject matter thoroughly in mind may become unable to perceive faults of this nature, while to the student encountering the subject they stand out clearly and make a deep impression. The views and criticisms of a group just completing a quarter's work should constitute invaluable information to the instructor, and if corrective measures based on some of these criticisms be applied in succeeding quarters, then real educational progress will have been made.

J.M.S.